

CL E1  
B1 D1  
end

providing configuration services to one or more remote devices of said network if  
said local device has a higher priority than said remote device; and  
operating the local device as a client device to said remote device if said remote  
device has a higher priority than said local device.

B2

sub  
E1

2. (Amended) The method defined in claim 1, wherein said providing  
configuration services comprises:  
automatically determining a first network address;  
automatically assigning a second network address;  
automatically assigning a network name;  
automatically correlating said first network address, said second network address,  
and said network name; and  
recording said correlated first network address, said correlated second network address  
and said correlated network name in a table.

sub  
E1

6. (Amended) The method defined in claim 2, wherein said network name is  
suggested by said local device.

B3

sub  
E1

7. (Amended) The method defined in claim 1, wherein said predetermined  
period of time is varied so as to prevent race conditions.

B4

sub  
E1

12. (Twice Amended) A method comprising:  
automatically assigning an address to a local device on said network;

automatically assigning a network name to said local device;  
automatically supplying user and group information across said network; and  
automatically determining service capability of said local device including  
whether said local device is capable of providing configuration services to one or more  
remote devices of said network;  
providing configuration services to one or more devices of said network if  
configuration services are not provided by a network device having a higher priority than  
said local device; and  
operating as a client device to a remote device if said remote device has a higher  
priority than said local device.

13. (Amended) The method defined in claim 12, wherein supplying user and  
group information comprises:  
detecting when said local device is connected to said network;  
sending a first user and group list to said local device in response to said local  
device connecting to said network;  
said local device comparing said first user and group list with a second user and  
group list resident on said local device; and  
said local device determining whether said first user and group list or said second  
user and group list is more recent;  
receiving a more recent user and group list from said local device;  
updating said user and group information to reflect said more recent user and  
group list; and

E1 ~~B5~~ end  
propagating said updated user and group information throughout said network.

B6 sub 18. (Amended) The method defined claim 12, wherein said network name is suggested by said local device.

E1 ~~B4~~ sub 21. (Amended) A network comprising:  
a first device coupled to said network, said first device configured to automatically  
request a first network address;  
receive a first network address from a second device coupled to said network;  
provide a network configuration if said first network address is not received from said second device;  
determine its priority level on said network if said first network address is received from said second device;  
provide said network configuration if said priority level is higher than a second priority level of said second device; and  
operate as a client device to said remote device if said remote device has a higher priority than said device.

B8 E1 sub 26. (Amended) A network comprising:  
a first device configured to  
assign an address to a second device on said network;